

House Joint Resolution 2014 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2014
BY HAGENOW

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa abolishing the district judicial
3 nominating commissions and the state judicial nominating
4 commission.
5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 15 of Article V of the Constitution of the
4 State of Iowa, as added by the Amendment of 1962, is amended
5 beginning July 1, 2013, to read as follows:

6 **Vacancies in courts.** SEC. 15. Vacancies in the Supreme
7 Court and District Court shall be filled by appointment by the
8 Governor from ~~lists of nominees submitted by the appropriate~~
9 ~~judicial nominating commission. Three nominees shall be~~
10 ~~submitted for each Supreme Court vacancy, and two nominees~~
11 ~~shall be submitted for each District Court vacancy. If the~~
12 ~~Governor fails for thirty days to make the appointment, it~~
13 ~~shall be made from such nominees by the Chief Justice of the~~
14 ~~Supreme Court~~ qualified resident members of the bar of the
15 state.

16 2. Section 16 of Article V of the Constitution of the
17 State of Iowa, as added by the Amendment of 1962, is repealed
18 beginning July 1, 2013.

19 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment
20 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
21 General Assembly to be chosen at the next general election
22 for members of the General Assembly, and the Secretary of
23 State is directed to cause the same to be published for three
24 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
25 provided by law.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
28 Constitution of the State of Iowa abolishes the district
29 judicial nominating commissions and the state judicial
30 nominating commission thus removing their duty to nominate
31 candidates for appointment by the governor as judicial
32 officers.

33 The amendment to the Constitution provides that the governor
34 may appoint any qualified resident member of the bar of the
35 state to fill a vacancy on the supreme court or district court.

1 The Constitution currently requires the governor to
2 appoint a person to fill a vacancy on the supreme court from
3 the list of three nominees submitted by the state judicial
4 nominating commission. For appointments to district court,
5 the Constitution currently requires the governor to appoint
6 a person to fill a vacancy from the list of two nominees
7 submitted by the district judicial nominating commission.

8 The members of the state judicial nominating commission
9 consist of one resident member from each congressional district
10 appointed by the governor and one resident member from each
11 congressional district elected by the members of the bar of the
12 state.

13 The members of each judicial district nominating commission
14 consist of five members appointed by the governor from the
15 judicial election district and five resident members elected by
16 the members of the bar from the judicial election district.

17 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
18 General Assembly (Eighty-fourth) for adoption before the
19 amendment is submitted to the electorate for ratification.

20 The resolution if adopted and ratified by the electorate
21 takes effect beginning July 1, 2013.